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CZECHOSLOVAKIA REVISES ECONOMIC PLAN

STRESSES EXPANSION OF HEAVY INDUSTRY -- Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 25 Jun 50

The Prague correspondent of the Neue Zuercher Zeitung reports that the Czechoslovak government has been forced to revise its economic plan for the current year as the result of complications affecting its foreign trade with western countries.

Heavy industry has been ordered to increase its production targets, to permit an expansion of trade with the eastern countries. Under the revised plan, coal mines and electric power plants are also to increase their output and the quotas for metallurgy and precision instruments have been raised. The stepping up of the agricultural quota apparently will have less effect on production than on prescribed deliveries, and on the allocation of agricultural products for domestic consumption and for export (sugar, hops).

The resolutions of the cabinet, which have been officially announced are based on the premise that increased production, especially intensification of labor, should result in a speedy expansion of heavy industry and that a like development must take place in the building industry and in agricultural and forestry. The resolutions stress the desire to lessen dependence on capitalist countries.

This year's production increase for heavy industry is to total 17 percent, compared with 1949. In light industry, greater quantities of industrial articles will be produced and the manufacture of items for which there is little demand will be sharply curtailed. Under the revised plan the state-owned building industry is to increase its output 56 percent, compared with 1949.

Women are finding increasing employment in light industry, where they replace the men who are shifted to heavy industry. Of the 80 percent of 15-year-old boys and girls who complete school this summer and will be coordinated in the country's economic life, 40 percent will work as industrial apprentices, and most of the boys will be employed in heavy industry.

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MINING INDUSTRY GETS NEW TASK -- Prague Hospodar, 6 Apr 50

The mines have been assigned a new task, as a result of the necessity for accelerated transformation of Czechoslovak industry. The expansion of heavy industry requires that the miners extract one million tons of black coal and 620,000 tons of brown coal this year over and above the original plan.

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